DANGER AND DEATH LURKED IN THE FOG.

Eyes Were Useless in Vapor Banks That Brooded Over the Streets and the Rivers.

TWICE "L" ROAD TRAINS CRASHED TOGETHER.

Fireman De Witt Kemmerer Was Thrown from His Engine and so Nangled That He Died-Two Engineers Were Also Hurt.

FERRYBOATS WANDERED HEIPLESSLY.

Pilots Fairly Felt Their Way Aleng, Ever in Imminent Peril of Collision; Tugs Lost Their Course, the Maryland Was Several Hours Going from Jersey City to Mott Haven and Two Staten Island Boats Rulbed Together Off Governor's Island.

Yesterday was "Ladies' Day" in this hight, brave city, but the ladies, like Enoch, were not.

On the second day of January, according to the aucient custom, the dear sisters were supposed to put on their ermine and sealskin, jump into their sleighs and drive around to help their friends eat up the remains of the funeral baked mats and tell

Did anybody do this yesterday? She must have been very lonely a stave to

Knickerbockerism. Imagine ermine or seal amid the fog and rain and general cusselness! You imagine a vain thing.

Of all the diabolically nasty days that ever fell upon this town I think yesterday was he nastiest. There had been snow in the city. There had really been sleighing and skating. But a warm wave swept over the land, a warm ratic came with The snow fell away as if exercised by the hand of a magician, and Manhattan Island rise from its brief mantle of winter and swam in sush, water, mod, ashes and filth general and particular, superimposed by a particularly dense and sticky

SCENES IN THE FOG.
King Fog was regnant. It wasn't a black fog like that of London, but a gray one. It was open as a cloak. It came and went and came and went, giving brief intervals of hope to the wayfarer and ingine man; but then it came again and night fell with the whistles blowing and the bedraggled. homeward seeking things suffering all manner of rexation and delay.

It seemed by some perversity to be the thickest in the hours when the tides of travel were them-selves most dense and it could do most damage. and the way it clogged travel on the Brdge, on the ferries and chiefly on the "L," where a sad and fatal calamity took place, was enough to make suffering humanity pray for an underground railway or a pneumatic tube, and be done with it.

Colonel Hain's misfit was never more pronounced than yesterday. His trains were few and far between and ran at a snail's pace. Signal men were stationed along the line to prevent collisions, and the engineers, usually so careless, craned their heads far out of their cab windows and watched out ahead as anxiously as if they were running limited expresses at sixty miles an hour.

The cars behind them, hot and damp and recking

with closely packed humanity, were almost stifling places. Each platform was full freighted, and time after time trains pulled past station platforms equally crowded without stopping. Then the col-lision came and there was a long stoppage on upper Eighth avenue and a great gap below. "L" TRAINS IN COLLISION.

The first collision occurred at half-past nine A. M. The fog was so dense at this time that the enrineers could scarcely see ahead a distance of ten

At that hour a train of four cars, drawn by engine No. 265, pulled out of the gloom at the 155th street station and proceeded slowly down Eighth svenue. The guard just below the station had failed to notice its approach, and the train ahead was scarcely half a block away.

When Engineer Germain, of the rear train, noticed the train ahead, a collision was inevitable. He hurriedly reversed his engine, but the wheels alld over the slippery tracks and with a crash that jarred the whole iron structure and threatened to throw both trains from the tracks the engine struck the rear car, wrecking the platform and jolting the passengers violently. Fortunately but few passengers were on either train, and none of beyond a general shaking up, were in any way injured. A FIREMAN PATALLY HURT.

De Witt Kemmerer, the fireman of No. 265, was caught between his engine and the platform of the other train and had both of his legs and one arm

He was lifted from the wreck with difficulty and carried to Manhattan Hospital suffering agonles. He died there at half-past three o'clock. He lived at 158th street and Mott avenue.

This accident caused a general delay of thirty minutes, and a line of delayed trains extended down the track as far as 130d street.

About an hour later another collision took place at 131st street. The train stached to engine No. 270 ran into the rear car of the train drawn by enine No. 30. Edward Ryder, the engine or of the former, was slightly injured. After this the "L" trains ran as regularly as usual without further delay or accident.

of slight collisions and any number of narrow

escapes.

The fog which hung over the water at noon was absolutely impenetrable. Ferry racks could not be seen from the ferryboats when they were within a dozen feet of them, and the belis on the various slip racks kept up a constant ringing.

The fog lifted somewhat at half-past two o'clock in the afternoon and the sun shone for a few minutes. Then the sky became overcast again and the fog closed in thicker than ever. The vapor spread itself over the rivers and bay in less than five minutes.

the neternoon and the sun shone for a few minutes. Then the sky became overcast again and the fog closed in thicker than ever. The vapor spread itself over the rivers and bay in less than five minutes.

Not until half-past five o'clock did the fog show any signs of clearing. Then it suddenly lifted, and the myriads of twinkling lights along the Jersey store and on Staten Island could be plainly seen, while Miss Liberty's electric torch shed heroat path of light on the water. In the interim several collisions had occurred, though fortunately none of them was serious.

When the Staten Island forryboat Southfield was on her was the statent Island for the statent shown, which was on her way to New York. Both boats had on a large number of passengers, besides trucks and carriages. The fog was so thick that although the whistles of both boats kept up a constant shrieking the cautain of neither boat could decide the location of the other until a collision was unavoidable. The boats were within twenty fest of each other when this was discovered.

Fortunately both boats were barely moving and they simply bumped against each other without doing any harm. Had either boat been under headway a serious collision would surely have resulted. As it was there was a great hubbub on both boats resumed their trips.

Not fifteen minutes after the Hoboken ferryboat Orange on her way to the Barclay street slip ram into a tugboat which was supposed to be the big river tug Assistance. The Orange was not injured and the tugboat which was supposed to be the big river tug Assistance. The Orange was not injured and the tugboat which was supposed to the be barden off the Baytery sea wall, hear the boatmen's slip. The Bay Hidge, which was mored to the foat off the Baytery sea wall, hear the boatmen's slip. The Bay Hidge, which bay and annoying experiences during the fog beful the passengers of the Boston express train on board the power of the Baytery sea and their try-live minutes past laid off for repairs and the Bay Ridge, which bay and al



THE CRASH ON THE "L" IN THE POS.

in the restaurant on board to feed everybody. The Maryland carries a crew of forty; this made seventy-eight to be fed. It began to look, too, as if the passengers would have to put in a night in the cara. A gentleman and his wife decided to try their luck on the Third avenue "L" prain to Harlem

their luck on the Third avenue "L" train to Harlem and loft the boat.

Suddenly the fog lifted at half-past five and the Maryland was on her way up the East River at a quarter to six o'clock. The boat was due in Harlem at three o'clock and the train's time to reach Boston was nine o'clock. Pursor Liston, of the Maryland, said the train would start at once on reaching Harlem. She will be at least six hours behind time.

perintendent of Repairs to Federal Buildings, and a number of others left the Bargo Office for Ellis Island in the little raphtha launch Ellis Island, at four o'clock. The launch narrowly escaped being ron down by several ferrybeats, and after wandering about for an hour she made a landing at Governor's Island. When the fog ifted the party tried to return in her to the Barge Office, but the fog again enveloped them, and after forty-five minutes of a hopeless search for the Barge Office landing the lights of Castle William, on the west side of Governor's Island, were seen. The launch had simply made a big circle, and that she had not been run down and sunk was a miracle. The Governor's Island plor was found by following the shore line and there the launch was left, the party coming over in the government tug Atlantic. Schedule time was an impossibility on the ferry lines yesterday. All the boats continued to run during the day, making the best time possible. Not until six o'clock was regular time resumed. The ferry houses along the North River were crowded during the afternoon, and every boat was jammed to sufficeation.

Miningrant was transferred to the Barge Office during the day, as the Barge Office officials were afraid to risk it. More than one thousand immigrants on four steamers in port were waiting to be landed, and their friends fairly besieged the Barge Office information Bureau.

Only one transatiantic steamer, the Bal Carre's Brook, from the East Indies, came into port. Seven steamers came in before one o'clock in the afternoon, and two others, the Yamassee, from Jacksonville, and the Roancke, from Richmond, Va., managed to reach their piers later in the day. With the exception of the anchorage steamer Manhatian, none of the revonue cutters ventured out yesterday, and not a vessel was boarded by the Customs officers.

Several transatlantic steamers, due yesterday, are expected to day. They include the White Star liner Adriatic from Queenstown, the Giava from Gioraltar and the Wisconsin from Queenstow

EUROPE'S TEMPERATURE.

M. Camille Flammarion on the Daily Distribution of Temperatures.

ISOTHERMAL CURVES.

Curious Facts as to the Similarity of Thermometrical Records at Places Longitudinally Very Far Distant from One Another.

[From the European Edition of the Berald.] TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-

Having received a large number of letters since the commencement of the cold asking for information as to its causes, and as to how long it would last, it has seemed to me that the New York HERALD, being one of the most universally read of newspapers, is therefore the best platform from which, to reply to these innumerable questions, which, by the bye, increase in number year by

First of all, it is necessary to state that all the astronomers in the world, united in council, would be unable positively to say whether the cold will last, if the winter will be severe, if the Seine will be frozen over or if the month of January next will bring us a return of premature spring.

Meteorology cannot be compared to astronomy. In one case all is precision; in the other all indecision. The laws which regulate the celestial movements are all known and determined. Those which register the winds, the clouds and the thermometer are not so. But they exist. There is no chance about it. One day surely meteorology will attain the degree of certitude of her elder sister astron-

SOME CURIOUS FACTS. While awaiting this period-still far distantwhat we can best do is to study the daily distribu-

what we can best do is to study the daily distribution of the temperatures of Europe and their variations. And already we find some curious points.

For example, when we experience in France colds such as those which came upon us on November 25 and December 4 last it is very remarkable that the temperature does not progress in lowering from the south to the north, starting from France, but on the contrary in rising, and that there are in countries over Europe a thermometrical minimum around which at the north, the west and the south the isothermal currents show a gradual growth of temperature.

Thus, for example, on November 28, while we were experiencing throughout the centre of France a cold of 15 degrees below zero, one sees around this minimum the isothermal curve of 10 degrees, passing by Havre, Orleans, Limoges, Macon, Dijon, Reims and Amiens; the curve of 3 degrees surrounding the first and passing through London, Cherbourg, Bookefort, Bibbao, Cette, Berne, and open to the east in order to go and adjoin a second minimum in Bussa, the curve of 9 degrees degree, York, crossing the Atlantic to direct itself upon Spain, passing between Lisbon and Madrid, and remounting Lowend, the east via Barcelons, Toulon, Turin, crossing Hungary, Turkey, the Crimea and the Black Sea to Trebizonde.

On that day there was the same temperature in

Toulon, Turin, crossing Hungary, Turkey, the Crimea and the Black Sea to Trebizonde.

An Analogous impraession.

On that day there was the same temperature in the centre and the north. In Spain, in Provence, in Flemont, in Turkey, in the Crimea, the thermometer marked the same degree as in the north of Norway. The same reflection applies to the days following. Besides, every winter an annilogous impression strikes us on looking over the daily thermometrical maps published by the Central Bureau. If one unites by a same line the places having the same temperatures, these lines of 0 degrees, 6 degrees, 10 degrees more or less distant, do not go from west to east, that is to say that the temperature does not proceed in diminishing from the south to the north. They appear on the contrary the most curious inflections, and may be vertical just ag well as horizontal.

In order that your readers may easily take into account the remarkable distribution of temperatures in these periods of great winter colds in our regions I send you a map of the late great colds which infringed on France on November 28 last. One sees that on that day the line of zero passed over the Black Soa, above Triest and Nice, between Marseilles and Toulon, to the south of Ferpignan and Madrid, to the North of London and Christiania, to rise again above Norway, It happens often that Nice has the same temperature as Christiania.

Therein is a meteorological fact little known, I

ability, any amount of pluck, knows more than fifty ordinary men and can tell what he knows in the best English that can be read in these days. He is never afraid to tell what he thinks. Take him all in all he is the best man in the State for the place, and therefore he is my choice, as he is the Herald's."

WIND AND FLOOD.

BUILDINGS WRECKED BY A GALE-ALARMING James A. Hearn & Son Fit the First RI-E OF THE BIVERS. ABILENE, Texas, Jan. 2, 1891 .- A terrific wind

storm here last night did great damage to buildings and other property. The roof of one of the Episcopal churches was blown away. A number of houses were unroofed and others were blown off their foundations. It was the hardest wind that has ever blown here. No loss of life was re-ported.

JOHNSTOWN FEARS ANOTHER DISASTER.

[DY TELEGRAPH TO THE HEBALD.] JOHNSTOWN, Pa., Jan. 2, 1891,—An immense ice gorge has lodged a few miles above this city, and the inhabitants are in serious alarm, for if it should come down now the obstructions where a new bridge is being erected across the river will cause the whole city to be overflowed. The only hope is that the increasing cold weather may cause the river to subside before the ice breaks loose from its present moorings.

ALARMING HISE OF THE OHIO AT PARKERSBURG

PY TELEGRAPH TO THE HEBALD. PARERESEURO, W. Va., Jan. 2, 1891.—Heavy rains here for forty-eight hours that have been general in this section have melted two feet of snow and in this section have melied two reet of snow and filled all the streams and rivers to everflowing. The Ohio has risen twenty-five feet in sixteen hours and is rising rapidly. Little Kanawha is out of its banks above. Fears of a disastrous flood are felt. The through train from New York over the Baitimore and Ohio is eight hours late, and is hemmed in by a big landside near here. No statilities are reported. Officials or the Ohio River Railroad have been warned to prepare for the wors!

BRIDGE BUILDING DELAYED BY A WASHOUT.

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD. CHARLESTON, W. Va., Jan. 2, 1891 .- The trestie for the channel span of the new bridge across the Eanawha River was washed out at seven o'clock this evening. The work has been in danger ever since the river began to rise yesterday, but the worst was almost over and it was expected the trestle would hold out. The timbers were caught below town by a towboat, but are badly damaged. The building of the bridge will be delayed several weeks by the accident.

VANDALS ASSIST DESTRUCTIVE ELEMENTS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HEBALD.] PINE BLUFF, Ark., Jan. 2, 1891 .- Thursday morn ing the pontoon bridge was nearly wrecked by the storm, and last night some malicious person at-tempted to complete the work by cutting the boats loose. Seren boats, bearing two hundred feet of the bridge floated away and were discovered and rescued only by accident. Officers are investi-gating.

SOUND STEAMERS FOG BOUND.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Jan. 2, 1891 .- Fog prevented the Newport and Fall River steamers from making their trips to-night. The Richard Borden, for Fall River, proceeded as far as Field's Point, but was obliged to put back.

PROST HOPED FOR TO PREVENT FLOOD. CINCINNATI, Ohio, Jan. 2, 1891.-With the Ohio River rising here at the rate of three inches an hour, and reports of rain and rising river from Pitts burg down, the prospects are good for a fifty feet stage of water here. Itain is reported up the Kan-awha, causing that river to rise rapidly. The Big Sandy and Guyandotte rivers are rising rapidly and log booms are being broken and the logs are floating down the river. The approaching cold weather will prevent a disastrous flood unless it is too long delayed.

STALLED TRAINS DUG OUT OF THE SNOW. KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 2, 1891.-The last of the belated passenger trains stalled on the Kansas prairie in yesterday's snow storm did not reach It was the Santa Fé train from the Southwest. Burington and Missouri Pacific trains stalled near atchison last night on the prairies were reached by the relief trains early this morning. The passengers had experienced no incongenience beyond an unbroken fast from yesterday noon. The trains were dug out from the huge drifts and arrived here a little before noon. All the snowbound trains have now been accounted for except one—the Missouri Pacific from Pueblo. Nothing had been heard of it at the Union Depot. The officials say it was probably abandoned at Pueble and was not sent out at all. All the roads in Kansas have been cleared and traffic was resumed on regular schedule time this evening. It was the Santa Fé train from the Southwest. Bur-

LAKE MINNETONKA FALLING.

tiania.

Therein is a meteorological fact little known, I think, and which will interest more than one of your readers.

It is true, be it said, exceptionally though, that France experiences these minimums. In the nor-



NEWSBOYS TRANSFORMED WITH HERALD JACKETS.

199 of the Little Fellows with Neat, Warm Coats.

AND KRISS KRINGLE SMILES.

No Disorder Mars the Work of Trying on the Garments and Only Four of the Boys Will Rave to Call Again.

ONE ATTEMPT AT FRAUD.

Well could the lucky newsboy that held a ticket for a Herald peajacket say yesterday:"Now is the winter of our discontent made glorious summer by this son of York," meaning

Kriss Kringle. For of a truth Kriss Eringle had warmed them all beneath comfortable folds of blue chinchills cloth, duly lined with dude lining.

One hundred and ninety-nine cold little newsboys were yesterday rendered deliciously torrid by the truition of the labors of the HERALD'S Eriss

The late Henry Ward Beacher struck into the prejudices of the time by asserting that dress did not make the man but made him more of a man. And so it was with the newsboys who went into Hearn's warerooms in West Thirteenth street yesterday without covering for their cold little bodies and came forth panoplied in the armor of an im pencirable peajacket. The peajacket did not make the boy, but it made him more of a boy.

There was, everybody agreed, something epic about the Henald's enterprise in this matter. To call fifteen hundred homeless boys from the streets

stairs pell mell would be putting it very mild indeed. Once arrived, however, on the floor whe the distribution was to take place they we stopped at the door and admitted by twenties, a soon as one instalment was fitted out the next was admitted and so on antil all were provided for.

The details of the work were performed as follows:—The twenty boys, being in the distribution room, they were arranged in a line on the side of the ruped off space leading to the desk. The clerks at this desk received the tickets, and if the signatures were all right the holders thereof were passed inside the roped off space, where another detachment of clerks was in attendance to fit the jackets upon the fortunate boys.

The work was accomplished with the greatest celerity and the boys behaved admirably. There was no disorder, he attempts to be "funny" and the whole labor of fitting out the first batch was accomplished before fen o'clock.



It is worthy of remark that of all the boys that presented themselves for costs yesterday only four were not satisfactorily fitted. To these orders upon Hearn & Son were given and they will be provided for on another occasion. The boys who were fitted yesterday were for the most part large boys. It was expected that the little fellows would turn up first.

It was a funny sight to observe the bearing of the boys after they got their jackets. They strutted out of the place like bloated bendholders,



and clothe them is one of those achievements of practical charity that strike the popular sentiment squarely in the centre.

A BUSH OF BOYS. To know what a warm peajacket means to a newsboy you should have been present yesterday at the distribution of the first batch. It was cold, damp and depressing, and yet the boys got around to the doors of Hearn & Son's warerooms before eight o'clock. More than two hundred of them were there, although the announcement on their tickets



"GIVE US A TICKET!"

only called for 199. Fully twice the number of boys called for were on hand long before nine o'clock, the hour set for the beginning of the fun. Every little chap seemed convinced that he was going to get his jacket that day, no matter what the number of his ticket might be. Mr. Hearn was not averse to making every boy present happy, but he couldn't bring peajackets by wishing for them. the had put up a gigantic notice on his doors to the effect that coats from Nos. I to 129 would be distributed yesterday, and that Nos. 200 to 229 would be given out to-day. But in spite of this the boys hung on until all of the first batch were distributed, seeming to expect some intervention of Providence in their behalf.

When a poese of stalwart policemen marched up and took possession of the space in front of the entrance to the house of peajackets the boys set up a yell of defiance. The bluecoats were exhorted "to come off," and "to go fall on themselves" and "to shoot their hats."

Mr. Hearn, with his benevolent face and patriarchial beard, fared but little better at the hands of the little arabs. "Git on to his ligiets," they cried, and "dello, whiskers." Hearn smiled knowingly at this and disappeared within the portal.

The good work regime.

Presently a corps of his most trusted clerks filed across the street from the main store. They were Messrs Moody, Beekman, Austin and Barry. Unused to the ways of the New York newsboy, they looked apprehensively at the foc they were soon to tackle. Next came a detachment of pretty girls, including the Misses Blumberg, Lawler, McCaus-He had put up a gigantic notice on his doors to the



But they had a rough time running the gantlet of their still unjacketed brothers on the stairs. They jumped on the boy with a new coat and invited him to turn the hose on himself. They caught him by the lapels of his jacket and called him "Jay Gould" in jovial mockery. The police in short, bad finally to extricate the newly jacketed boy and conduct him down stairs. Once in the open air it was observed that the "dude" newsbuy scudded away at the top of his speed, so anxious was he to conceal his new blown splendor from the further derision of his cronics.

NEARING THAT FAILED.

Only one case of an attempt to defraud the Heriato came to light yesterday. Such side shows were expected, for there never yet was an enterprise that was not characterized by attempts of this character. A tall, lank boy presented a ticket for a jacket signed James L. Mooce. As he did so a little chap spoke up and said that was his name. The tall boy said:—

"Ath, watcher givin" us; didn't I git der ticket at "Ath, watcher given in the signed James L. Mooce.

Ah, watcher givin' us; didn't I git der ticket at

"Ah, watcher givin' his; didn't I git der tickes and der dinner?"

The little boy stood by his colors, however, and insisted that the tall, lank boy had stolen the ticket from him a little while before in the attract. As both boys insisted that their version of the affair was correct, the only way out of it was to call for a comparison of liandwritings. The test was gone through with amid the most intense silence of those who witnessed it.

way he slunk out of that room was a lessou that should have been witnessed by every one of those 199 boya. He hadn't a word to say for himself—he just scooted. And little James L. Moore took the jacket, with blushes on his tiny face and the consciousness that he deserved it.

More To-Dax.

To-day the second instalment of the jackets will be distributed, as set forth upon the tickets held by the boys. Examine your tickets, therefore, boys, and if their numbers are from 200 to 390 inclusive go to Hearn's warcrooms, at No. 20 West Thirteenth street, between the hours of eight and en o'clock this morning, and find awaiting you there warm, well made, finely flushed peajackets of blue chinchilla, which will fit you like a glove.

Mrs. Frances Hodgsou Burnett takes readers of the SUNDAY HERALD a fauciful journey through the last hours of

Pompeii. GARBAGE FILLS THE STREETS.

COMMISSIONER BEATTIE, HOWEVER, THREATENS TO BEGIN WORK WITHOUT DELAY.

"The city was never in a filthler condition than at the present time, and there never has been such an accumulation of garbage barrels in the streets." A prominent city official who lives on the east

A prominent city official who lives on the east side made the above declaration yesterday. A little investigation showed that all along the east side of the city heaps of garbage barrels and ash cans stood on the streets in front of every residence. Housekeepers said that the ash carts have not been around for over a week, and that if relief did not soon come the refuse would have to be emptled on the street. The hardship is greater in the tenement house quarter, where the refuse accumulates rapidly and becomes a foul smelling nuisance.

Commissioner Beattle announced yesterday that he would increase his working force of 830 men to 1,500 and give the city a thorough cleaning at once. This force would be kept up, he said, until all the slush and dirt disappeared.

In speaking of the new plant for which the Commissioner was allowed \$200,000 he said it would take six months to have the plant constructed, so the city will not get the benefit of the plant until after that time.